command; inputting a stop command; and inputting a second command whereby the parameter varies in the first direction at a slower speed than the first speed.

Claim 7 (original): A method according to Claim 1, in which the commands are voice commands.

Claim 8 (original): A method according to Claim 1, in which the commands are manually input commands.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ for changing the value of a parameter from a current value to a desired value comprising control means to control the parameter; and input means to which the control means is responsive; wherein the input means is arranged to input directional commands whereby the control means ~~varies~~ sets the parameter in response to a first directional command at a first ~~speed~~ value in a first direction and then in response to a second directional command varies the parameter ~~and a different speed in the first or in the opposite~~ in a second direction by a second value that is less than the first value.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to Claim 9, in which the input means is a voice recognition device.

Claim 11 (new): The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the second direction is opposite the first direction.

Claim 12 (new): The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the second direction is the same as the first direction.

Claim 13 (new): The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising a third directional command in a third direction having a third value that is less than the second value.

Claim 14 (new): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the third direction is the same as the second direction.

Claim 15 (new): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the third direction is opposite the second direction.

Claim 16 (new): The apparatus of claim 13 in which the input means is a voice recognition device.

Claim 17 (new): The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising a stop command wherein the parameter ceases directional movement in the item being measured.